

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A method for operating an exhaust gas purification system for the thermal purification of an oxygen-containing or non-oxygen-containing exhaust gas which contains organosilicon compounds, the exhaust gas being preheated in at least one regenerator by means of a heat storage material, at least a part of the heat storage material being a bed, comprising the steps of:

treating said exhaust gas in a regenerator with a heat storage material at least a portion of which forms a bed;

removing at least a portion of said removal of the heat storage material of said bed from said regenerator after adhesions are formed on said heat storage material from oxidation of said organosilicon compounds;

purifying purification of the heat storage material removed from said regenerator by removing adhesions from said heat storage material; and

re-introducing re-introduction of the heat storage material purified in said purifying step into the regenerator regenerator to refill the bed for retaining oxidation products of the organosilicon compounds in the form of adhesions on the heat storage material.

2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the steps of removing, purifying and re-introducing removal, purification and re-introduction of the heat storage material is effected automatically or semiautomatically.

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the treating step is performed in the regenerative preheating and cooling, and the oxidation of the exhaust gas, are effected within a regenerator which is operated alternately with upward and downward flow.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of ~~performing a flushing~~ the regenerator cycle with intermediate storage of the exhaust gas.
5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one regenerator includes two or more regenerators each with beds which are connected to a combustion space and through which flow takes place alternately, each of said two or more regenerators are equipped with an apparatus for removal and re-introduction of the heat storage material after purification using a separation apparatus.
6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said at least one regenerator includes two or more regenerators, and wherein said steps of removal, purification and re-introduction of the heat storage material is effected at successive times in individual regenerators of said two or more regenerators.
7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting a pressure drop across said bed of said heat storage material and performing said steps of removing, purifying, and re-introducing said heat storage material after a maximum permissible pressure drop is exceeded.
8. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat storage material is removed, purified, and re-introduced after certain time intervals.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of removing ~~removal~~ removes only partly said heat storage material.
11. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said treating step includes ~~the preheating is brought about~~ not completely in a regenerative manner ~~but~~

partly by another route.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of characterized in that at least a portion of the energy for thermal purification of ~~said oxygen-containing or non-oxygen-containing exhaust gas is introduced with the aid of~~ admixing of natural gas into the exhaust gas, electrically, via a burner or by gas injection.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat storage material which forms the bed consists of solid or hollow spheres.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one regenerator includes two or more regenerators, each of which have a discharge connected to a separation apparatus.

17. (Canceled)